Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3-34, and 36-68. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing noise characteristics ~~In~~ in a communication system for transmitting digital signals using a compression code ~~comprising a predetermined plurality of parameters including a first parameter, said parameters representing an audio signal, said audio signal having a plurality of audio characteristics including a noise characteristic, said compression code being decodable by a plurality of decoding procedures,~~ the apparatus ~~for managing the noise characteristic~~ comprising:

a reading unit responsive to ~~said~~ the compression code of ~~said~~ a digital ~~signals~~ signal to read at least ~~said~~ a first parameter[[,]] among a predetermined plurality of parameters in the digital signal;

a generation unit responsive to ~~said~~ a compression code and ~~said~~ the first parameter[[,]] ~~a generation unit~~ to generate an adjusted first parameter in a presence of speech, noise, and combination thereof;

a replacement unit to replace ~~said~~ the first parameter with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter; and

a transmitter to transmit ~~said~~ the digital signal with a managed noise characteristic.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook gain, and ~~wherein said reading~~ the generation unit is arranged to ~~modifies~~ modify ~~said~~ the codebook gain to modify a codebook vector contribution to ~~said~~ the noise characteristic.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of

parameters ~~further comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of characteristics ~~further comprises~~ includes a signal to noise ratio, and ~~wherein said~~ the ~~reading~~ generation unit is arranged to generate the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted codebook gain, responsive to ~~said~~ the codebook gain, ~~said~~ the pitch gain and ~~said~~ the signal to noise ratio ~~to generate said adjusted first parameter, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted codebook gain~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 4[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the signal to noise ratio ~~comprises~~ includes a ratio involving noisy signal power and noise power of ~~said~~ an audio signal.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of parameters ~~further comprise~~ includes a codebook gain, wherein ~~said~~ the reading unit is arranged to ~~performs~~ perform ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures by generating a codebook vector, and wherein ~~said~~ the ~~reading~~ generation unit includes at least a first buffer to generate first samples based on pitch period responsive to the scaled codebook vector and is arranged to ~~scales~~ scale ~~said~~ the codebook vector by ~~said~~ the codebook gain to generate a scaled codebook vector, ~~wherein said reading unit comprises at least a first buffer responsive to said scaled codebook vector to generate first samples based on pitch period, wherein said reading unit,~~ scale[[s]] ~~said~~ the first samples by ~~said~~ the pitch gain to generate first scaled samples, and ~~wherein said reading unit modifies said~~ modify the pitch gain to modify the contribution of ~~said~~ the first scaled samples in order to manage ~~said~~ the noise characteristic.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of characteristics further ~~comprises~~ includes a signal to noise ratio, ~~wherein said~~ and the ~~reading~~ generation unit is arranged ~~responsive to said pitch gain and said signal to noise ratio~~ to generate ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted pitch gain.

responsive to the pitch gain and the signal to noise ratio[[,]] ~~and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted pitch gain~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 7[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the signal to noise ratio ~~comprises~~ includes a ratio involving noisy signal power and noise power of ~~said~~ the audio signal.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of parameters ~~further comprise~~ include a codebook gain, ~~wherein said~~ the reading unit is arranged to perform[[s]] ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures to generate a codebook vector, ~~wherein said reading~~ and the generation unit is arranged to scale[[s]] ~~said~~ the codebook vector by ~~said~~ the codebook gain to generate a scaled codebook vector, ~~wherein said reading unit generates~~ a power signal representing the power of ~~said~~ the scaled codebook vector, ~~wherein said reading unit~~ and the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted pitch gain, ~~is~~ responsive to ~~said~~ the pitch gain and ~~said~~ the power signal ~~to generate said adjusted first parameter, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted pitch gain~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, wherein ~~said~~ the ~~reading~~ generation unit ~~comprises~~ includes at least a first buffer generating at least first samples based on a pitch period[[,]] and ~~wherein said reading~~ is arranged to scale[[s]] ~~said~~ the first samples by ~~said~~ the pitch gain to generate at least first scaled samples, ~~wherein said reading unit generates~~ generate at least a first power signal representing the power of ~~said~~ the first scaled samples[[,]] and ~~wherein said reading unit is~~ generate the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted pitch gain, responsive at least to ~~said~~ the pitch gain and ~~said~~ the first power signal ~~to generate said adjusted first parameter, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted pitch gain~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 10[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the ~~reading~~ generation unit ~~comprises~~ includes a second buffer responsive in part to ~~said~~ the first power signal to generate second samples based on the pitch period, ~~wherein said reading unit~~ and is arranged to ~~scales~~ scale ~~said~~ the second samples by ~~said~~ the pitch gain to generate second scaled samples, ~~wherein said reading unit generates~~ generate a second power signal representing the power of ~~said~~ the second scaled samples, and ~~wherein said reading unit~~ the adjusted first parameter ~~is~~ responsive to ~~said~~ the pitch gain, ~~said~~ the first power signal and ~~said~~ the second power signal ~~to generate said adjusted first parameter~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 11[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first buffer and ~~said~~ the second buffer each ~~comprises~~ include a long-term predictor buffer.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of parameters ~~further comprises~~ includes a codebook gain, ~~wherein said~~ the ~~reading~~ generation unit ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch synthesis filter, ~~wherein said reading unit~~ and is arranged to ~~performs~~ perform ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures to generate a first vector, ~~wherein said reading unit scales~~ scale ~~said~~ the first vector by ~~said~~ the codebook gain to generate a scaled codebook vector, ~~wherein said reading unit filters~~ filter ~~said~~ the scaled codebook vector through ~~said~~ the pitch synthesis filter to generate a second vector, ~~wherein said reading unit generates~~ generate a power signal representing the power of ~~said~~ the second vector[[,]] and ~~wherein said reading unit is responsive to said pitch gain and said power signal to generate said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted pitch gain, responsive to the pitch gain and the power signal, ~~and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted pitch gain~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 13[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first vector ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook excitation vector and ~~wherein said~~ the second vector ~~comprises~~ includes a linear predictive coding excitation vector.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook vector ~~comprising~~ including pulses using variable sets of amplitudes, wherein ~~said reading~~ the generation unit is arranged to ~~analyzes~~ analyze ~~said~~ the sets to identify the powers of ~~said~~ the noise characteristic represented by ~~said~~ the sets[[,]] ~~wherein said reading unit identifies~~ and a first set representing a power less than the power represented by ~~said~~ the sets other than ~~said~~ the first set, and ~~wherein said reading unit~~ adjust[[s]] ~~said~~ the pulses according to ~~said~~ the first set to generate said adjusted parameter.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures further ~~comprises~~ includes at least one decoding procedure that does not substantially affect the management of the noise characteristic and ~~wherein said~~ the reading unit avoids performing ~~said~~ the at least one decoding procedure.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 16 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the at least one decoding procedure ~~comprises~~ includes post-filtering.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code ~~comprises~~ includes a linear predictive code.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code ~~comprises~~ includes regular pulse excitation long term prediction code.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code ~~comprises~~ includes code-excited linear prediction code.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter is a quantized first parameter and ~~wherein said~~ the ~~reading~~ generation unit is arranged to ~~generates said~~ generate the adjusted first parameter in part by quantizing

~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter before replacing ~~said~~ the first parameter with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code is arranged in frames of ~~said~~ the digital signals and ~~wherein said~~ the frames ~~comprise~~ include a plurality of subframes each ~~comprising said~~ including the first parameter, ~~wherein said~~ the reading unit is responsive to ~~said~~ the compression code to read at least ~~said~~ the first parameter from each of ~~said~~ the plurality of subframes, and ~~wherein said~~ the ~~reading~~ replacement unit is arranged to ~~replaces~~ replace ~~said~~ the first parameter with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter in each of ~~said~~ the plurality of subframes.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 22 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the ~~reading~~ replacement unit is arranged to ~~replaces~~ replace ~~said~~ the first parameter with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter for a first subframe before processing a subframe following the first subframe to achieve lower delay.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code is arranged in frames of ~~said~~ the digital signals and ~~wherein said~~ the frames comprise a plurality of subframes each ~~comprising said~~ including the first parameter, ~~wherein said~~ the reading unit is arranged to begin[[s]] to perform ~~said~~ the decoding procedures during a first of ~~said~~ the subframes[[,]] to generate a plurality of ~~said~~ the decoded signals, read[[s]] ~~said~~ the first parameter from a second of said subframes occurring subsequent to ~~said~~ the first subframe, and the generation unit is arranged to generate[[s]] ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter in response to ~~said~~ the decoded signals and ~~said~~ the first parameter, and the replacement unit is arranged to replace[[s]] ~~said~~ the first parameter of ~~said~~ the second subframe with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the reading unit is responsive to ~~said~~ the compression code to perform at least one of a plurality of ~~said~~ the decoding procedures to generate decoded signals and wherein ~~said~~ the

~~reading~~ generation unit is responsive to ~~said~~ the decoded signals and ~~said~~ the first parameter to generate ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter is selected from a group consisting of codebook vector, codebook gain, pitch gain and LPC coefficients representations, including line spectral frequencies and log area ratios.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the ~~audio~~ digital signals have spectral regions affected by ~~said~~ the noise characteristic, ~~wherein said~~ the first parameter comprises a representation of linear predictive coding coefficients, ~~wherein said~~ and the ~~reading~~ generation unit is arranged to determine the spectral regions affected by noise ~~is~~ responsive to ~~said~~ the compression code and ~~said~~ the representation ~~to determine said spectral regions affected by noise~~ and ~~to~~ generate ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted representation of linear predictive coding coefficients, to manage ~~said~~ the noise characteristic in ~~said~~ the regions~~, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted representation of linear predictive coding coefficients~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 27 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the representation of linear predictive coding coefficients is selected from a group ~~consisting~~ including of line spectral frequencies and log area ratios.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing the noise characteristic ~~In~~ in a communication system for transmitting digital signals ~~comprising~~ including code samples, ~~said~~ the code samples ~~comprising~~ including first bits using a compression code and second bits using a linear code, ~~said code samples representing an audio signal, said audio signal having a plurality of audio characteristics including a noise characteristic,~~ the apparatus ~~for managing the noise characteristic~~ comprising:

a reading unit responsive to ~~said~~ the second bits to adjust ~~said~~ the first bits and ~~said~~ the second bits, without decoding ~~said~~ the compression code, to manage the noise characteristic in the digital signals; and

a transmitter ~~module~~ unit to transmit adjusted first and second bits to a device to produce a corresponding audible signal with a managed noise characteristic for an end user.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 29 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the linear code ~~comprises~~ includes pulse code modulation (PCM) code.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 29 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code samples conform to the tandem-free operation of the global system for mobile communications standard.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 29 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first bits ~~comprise~~ include the two least significant bits of ~~said~~ the samples and ~~wherein said~~ the second bits ~~comprise~~ include the [[6]] six most significant bits of said samples.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 32 [[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the [[6]] six most significant bits ~~comprise~~ include PCM code.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for managing noise characteristics ~~In~~ in a communication system for transmitting digital signals using a compression code, the compression code including ~~comprising~~ a predetermined plurality of parameters including a first parameter, ~~said parameters representing an audio signal, said audio signal having a plurality of audio characteristics including a noise characteristic, said compression code being decodable by a plurality of decoding procedures, a~~ the method ~~of managing the noise characteristic~~ comprising:

reading at least said first parameter;

generating an adjusted first parameter in a presence of speech, noise, and combination thereof in response to ~~said~~ the compression code and ~~said~~ the first parameter;

replacing ~~said~~ the first parameter with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, and

transmitting ~~said~~ the digital signal with a managed noise characteristic.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook gain, and ~~wherein said method~~ further including ~~comprises~~ modifying ~~said~~ the codebook gain to modify a codebook vector contribution to ~~said~~ the noise characteristic.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of parameters ~~further comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of characteristics ~~further comprises~~ includes a signal to noise ratio and ~~wherein said generating comprises~~ further including generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted codebook gain, in response to ~~said~~ the codebook gain, ~~said~~ the pitch gain and ~~said~~ the signal to noise ratio~~, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted codebook gain~~.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 37[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the signal to noise ratio ~~comprises~~ includes a ratio involving noisy signal power and noise power of ~~said~~ an audio signal.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of parameters further includes a codebook gain, ~~wherein said generating comprises~~ and further including performing ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures by generating a codebook vector, scaling ~~said~~ the codebook vector by ~~said~~ the codebook gain to generate a scaled codebook vector, generating first

samples based on pitch period in response to ~~said~~ the scaled codebook vector, scaling ~~said~~ the first samples by ~~said~~ the pitch gain to generate first scaled samples, and modifying ~~said~~ the pitch gain to modify the contribution of ~~said~~ the first scaled samples in order to manage ~~said~~ the noise characteristic.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of characteristics ~~further comprises~~ includes a signal to noise ratio, ~~wherein said generating comprises~~ and further including generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted pitch gain, in response to ~~said~~ the pitch gain and said signal to noise ratio~~, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted pitch gain~~.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 40[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the signal to noise ratio ~~comprises~~ includes a ratio involving noisy signal power and noise power of ~~said~~ the audio signal.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the plurality of parameters ~~further comprises~~ include a codebook gain, ~~wherein said the generating comprises~~ and further including performing ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures to generate a codebook vector, scaling said codebook vector by ~~said~~ the codebook gain to generate a scaled codebook vector, generating a power signal representing the power of ~~said~~ the scaled codebook vector, and generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted pitch gain, in response to ~~said~~ the pitch gain and ~~said~~ the power signal~~, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted pitch gain~~.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes pitch gain, ~~wherein said~~ the generating ~~comprises~~ includes generating at least first samples based on pitch period, scaling ~~said~~ the first samples by ~~said~~ the pitch gain to generate at least first scaled samples, generating at least a first power signal

representing the power of ~~said~~ the first scaled samples, and generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted pitch gain, in response to at least ~~said~~ the pitch gain and ~~said~~ the first power signal~~, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted pitch gain~~.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 43 [[,]] ~~wherein said generating~~ further ~~comprises~~ including generating second samples based on pitch period responsive in part to ~~said~~ the first power signal, scaling ~~said~~ the second samples by ~~said~~ the pitch gain to generate second scaled samples, generating a second power signal representing the power of ~~said~~ the second scaled samples and generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter in response to ~~said~~ the pitch gain, ~~said~~ the first power signal and ~~said~~ the second power signal.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 44[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the system ~~comprises~~ includes one or more long-term predictor buffers and ~~wherein said~~ further including generating ~~said~~ the first and second samples ~~comprises~~ using ~~said~~ the one or more buffers.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method, ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a pitch gain, wherein ~~said~~ the plurality of parameters ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook gain, and ~~wherein said~~ further including ~~generating comprises~~ performing ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures to generate a first vector, scaling ~~said~~ the first vector by ~~said~~ the codebook gain to generate a scaled codebook vector, filtering ~~said~~ the scaled codebook vector by pitch synthesis filtering to generate a second vector, generating a power signal representing the power of ~~said~~ the second vector, and generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted pitch gain, in response to ~~said~~ the pitch gain and ~~said~~ the power signal~~, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted pitch gain~~.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 46[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first vector ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook excitation vector and ~~wherein said~~ the second vector ~~comprises~~ includes a linear predictive coding excitation vector.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a codebook vector ~~comprising~~ including pulses using variable sets of amplitudes, ~~wherein said generating comprises~~ and further including analyzing ~~said~~ the sets to identify the powers of said noise characteristic represented by ~~said~~ the sets, identifying a first set representing a power less than the power represented by ~~said~~ the sets other than said first set, and adjusting ~~said~~ the pulses according to ~~said~~ the first set to generate ~~said~~ the adjusted parameter.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures ~~further comprises~~ includes at least one decoding procedure that does not substantially affect the management of the noise characteristic and ~~wherein said~~ the generating avoids performing ~~said~~ the at least one decoding procedure.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 49[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the at least one decoding procedure ~~comprises~~ includes post-filtering.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code ~~comprises~~ includes a linear predictive code.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code ~~comprises~~ includes regular pulse excitation long term prediction code.

53. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code ~~comprises~~ includes code-excited linear prediction code.

54. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter is a quantized first parameter and wherein ~~said~~ the generating ~~comprises~~ includes generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter in part by quantizing ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter before replacing ~~said~~ the first parameter with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter.

55. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code is arranged in frames of ~~said~~ the digital signals and wherein ~~said~~ the frames ~~comprise~~ include a plurality of subframes each ~~comprising said~~ including the first parameter, ~~wherein said reading comprises~~ and further including reading at least ~~said~~ the first parameter from each of ~~said~~ the plurality of subframes in response to ~~said~~ the compression code, and ~~wherein said replacing comprises~~ replacing ~~said~~ the first parameter with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter in each of ~~said~~ the plurality of subframes.

56. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 55[[,]] ~~wherein said replacing comprises~~ further including replacing ~~said~~ the first parameter with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter for a first subframe before processing a subframe following the first subframe to achieve lower delay.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the compression code is arranged in frames of ~~said~~ the digital signals and ~~said~~ the frames ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of subframes each ~~comprising said~~ including the first parameter, ~~wherein said~~ generating ~~comprises~~ includes beginning to perform ~~said~~ the decoding procedures during a first of ~~said~~ the subframes to generate a plurality of ~~said~~ the decoded signals, ~~wherein said reading comprises~~ and further including reading ~~said~~ the first parameter from a second of ~~said~~ the subframes occurring subsequent to ~~said~~ the first subframe, wherein ~~said~~ the generating further and further including generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter in response to ~~said~~ the decoded signals and ~~said~~ the first parameter, and ~~wherein said replacing comprises~~ replacing ~~said~~ the first parameter of ~~said~~ the second subframe with ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter.

58. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] ~~wherein said generating comprises~~ further including performing at least one of a plurality of ~~said~~ the decoding procedures to generate decoded signals in response to ~~said~~ the compression code and generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter in response to ~~said~~ the decoded signals and ~~said~~ the first parameter.

59. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first parameter is selected from a group consisting of codebook vector, codebook gain, pitch gain and LPC coefficients representations, including line spectral pairs and line spectral frequencies.

60. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the audio signals have spectral regions affected by said noise characteristic, ~~wherein said~~ the first parameter ~~comprises~~ includes a representation of linear predictive coding coefficients, and ~~wherein said generating comprises~~ further including determining ~~said~~ the spectral regions affected by noise in response to ~~said~~ the compression code and ~~said~~ the representation and generating ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter, including an adjusted representation of linear predictive coding coefficients, to manage ~~said~~ the noise characteristic in ~~said~~ the regions~~, and wherein said adjusted first parameter comprises an adjusted representation of linear predictive coding coefficients~~.

61. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 60[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the representation of linear predictive coding coefficients is selected from a group ~~consisting of~~ including line spectral frequencies and log area ratios.

62. (Currently Amended) A method for managing the noise characteristic ~~In~~ in a communication system for transmitting digital signals ~~comprising~~ including code samples, ~~said~~ the code samples ~~comprising~~ including first bits using a compression code and second bits using a linear code, ~~said code samples representing an audio signal, said audio signal~~

~~having a plurality of audio characteristics including a noise characteristic,~~ the apparatus ~~for managing the noise characteristic~~ comprising:

adjusting ~~said~~ the first bits and ~~said~~ the second bits in response to ~~said~~ the second bits, without decoding ~~said~~ the compression code, to manage the noise characteristic in the digital signals in a presence of speech, noise, and combination thereof; and

transmitting adjusted first and second bits to a device to produce a corresponding audible signal with a managed noise characteristic for an end user.

63. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 62[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the linear code ~~comprises~~ includes pulse code modulation (PCM) code.

64. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 62[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the code samples conform to the tandem-free operation of the global system for mobile communications standard.

65. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 62[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the first bits ~~comprise~~ include the two least significant bits of ~~said~~ the samples and ~~wherein said~~ the second bits ~~comprise~~ include the ~~6~~ six most significant bits of said samples.

66. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 65[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the ~~6~~ six most significant bits include PCM code.

67. (Currently Amended) The ~~Apparatus~~ apparatus ~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~said~~ the reading unit performs ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures by performing first decoding procedures to generate first decoder signals resulting in a noisy speech signal and second decoding procedures to generate second decoder signals resulting in an estimated clean speech signal, and wherein ~~said~~ the ~~reading~~ generation unit responds at least to ~~said~~ the first decoder signals and ~~said~~ the second decoder signals and ~~said~~ the first parameter to generate ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter.

68. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method~~, as claimed in~~ of claim 34[[,]] ~~and~~ further comprising:

performing ~~said~~ the plurality of decoding procedures by performing first decoding procedures to generate first decoder signals resulting in a noisy speech signal and second decoding procedures to generate second decoder signals resulting in an estimated clean speech signal; and

responding at least to ~~said~~ the first decoder signals and ~~said~~ the second decoder signals and ~~said~~ the first parameter to generate ~~said~~ the adjusted first parameter.